

OPINION

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The ultimate logic

THE Victorian Government's decision to restructure the health system could be a threat or an opportunity for health consumers in Frankston.

Health Minister Tehan has said that the Government wishes to "build new relationships between the individual consumer and the service provider".

If the minister had a better sense of history she would understand that existing consumer-owned and controlled health providers have established a new relationship with consumers, that the relationship with consumers is qualitatively different from their experience with public and private providers and that it is an old and enduring relationship that could be renewed.

Examples of existing consumer-owned and controlled providers include the Frankston Community Health Centre, the Mornington Bush Nursing Hospital and the Chelsea and District Hospital.

The Government's restructuring proposals should include supporting consumers to own and control their providers — the ultimate logic of consumer empowerment.

— **David Griffiths**, Franciscan Ave, Frankston.